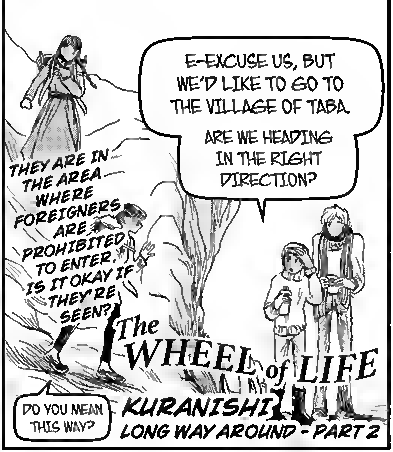
MangaBox


E-EXCUSE US, BUT WE'D LIKE TO GO TO THE VILLAGE OF TABA.
ARE WE HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?
THEY ARE IN THE AREA WHERE FOREIGNERS ARE PROHIBITED TO ENTER. IS IT OKAY IF THEY'RE SEEN?
DO YOU MEAN THIS WAY?

The WHEEL of LIFE

KURANISHI

LONG WAY AROUND - PART 2

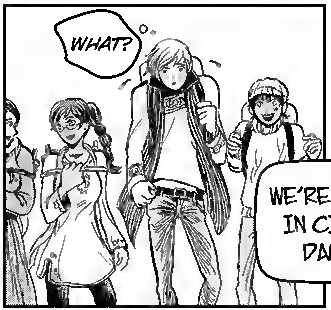
TRANSLATION BY RICHIKO AOBA
ERIKO TAKEI
ADAPTATION BY JESSI NUSS (JVTA)
SKY JAPAN, INC.

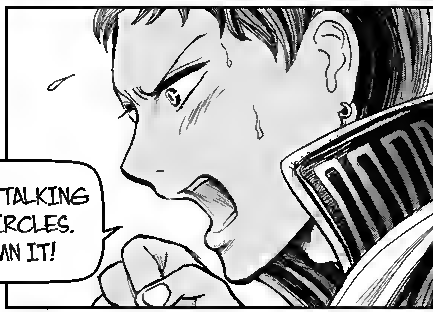
THIS IS A WORK OF FICTION. NAMES, CHARACTERS, PLACES AND INCIDENTS ARE THE PRODUCTS OF THE AUTHOR'S IMAGINATION OR ARE USED FICTITIOUSLY.

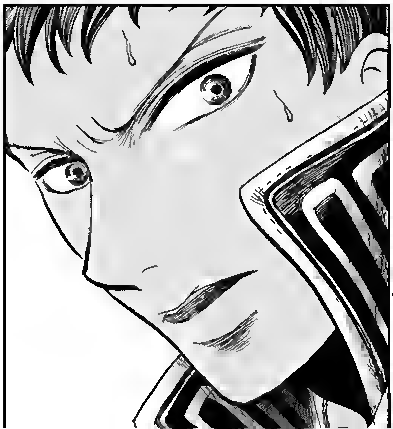
DID YOU SAY A FOREIGNER HAS SOMETHING TO DO IN OUR VILLAGE?
WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO. WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET OUR FELLOW TRAVELER IN TABA.
ACTUALLY, WE WANT TO GO TO THE NUN VALLEY.
I CAME ALL THE WAY FROM JAPAN TO GO THERE.
THE NUN VALLEY...
THEY'RE GOING TO THE NUN VALLEY. THAT MEANS THEY'RE PILGRIMS.
SO, IT'S OKAY.
HEY, LHAMO, DON'T YOU THINK WE'D BETTER NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THOSE MEN?
I SEE...
FOLLOW ME.
LHAMO!
OH?

WE'RE LUCKY.
IT SEEMS THE VILLAGE IS CLOSE.
HERE YOU CAN SEE...
...THE VILLAGE OF TABA.
THERE!

AS I SAID BEFORE, THE TWO GUYS I'M LOOKING FOR ARE...
SONAM!
SO, AS WE SAID BEFORE...
...THE LAST TIME WE SAW TRAVELERS WAS ABOUT A HALF MONTH AGO.

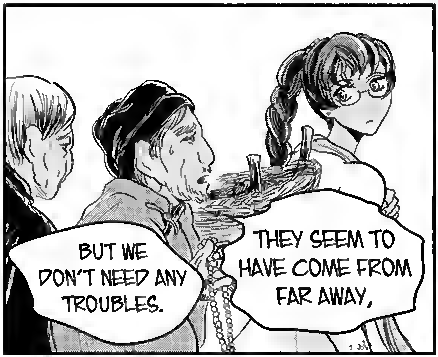

WHAT?

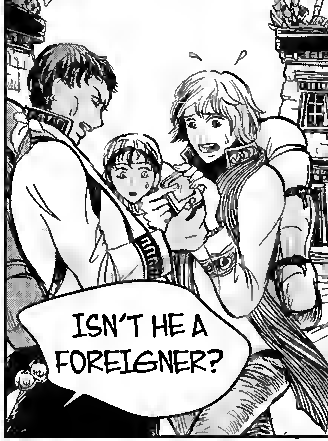

WE'RE TALKING IN CIRCLES. DAMN IT!



THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING!
TOTALLY ANNOYED.
AHA.

NAMGYAL, WHY? I WAS COUNTING ON YOU!
I'M SO SORRY.
STOP, SONAM!
YOU TWO!
LHAMO, I'VE GOT TO GO. BYE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
WE GOT LOST.
PSST, HEY, LHAMO,
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT US IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT.
BESIDES,
WHO THE HECK ARE THEY?


BUT WE DON'T NEED ANY TROUBLES.
THEY SEEM TO HAVE COME FROM FAR AWAY,

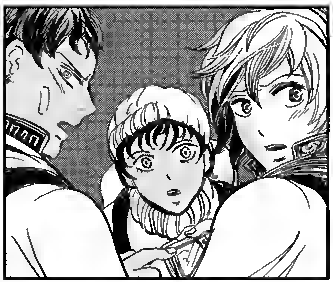

ISN'T HE A FOREIGNER?

DON'T BRING IN ANY PROBLEMS.
I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WE WANT TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE VILLAGE.

WOULD YOU ASK THEM TO LEAVE HERE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE?

THEY GOT LOST.
THEY'VE FOUND EACH OTHER, SO EVERYTHING'S ALRIGHT WITH THEM NOW.

NO.
WE SHOULD BE HOSPITABLE BECAUSE THEY'VE COME A LONG WAY TO MAKE A PILGRIMAGE.



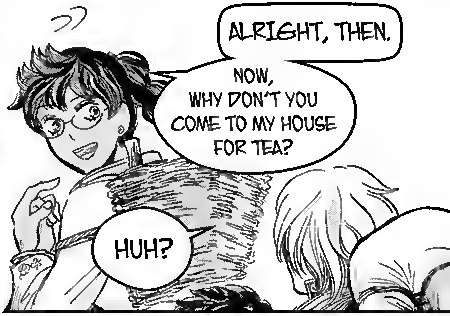
WHOA.
LHAMO?!
YOU'RE CRAZY AS ALWAYS. THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!

?
THEY'RE PILGRIMS ON THE WAY TO THE NUN VALLEY.
OFFERING PILGRIMS HOSPITALITY IS TABA'S TRADITION, REMEMBER?

MURMUR
WE'LL BE IN BIG TROUBLE IF THEY DON'T LEAVE SOON.
HMM
BUT WE SHOULD WARMLY WELCOME PILGRIMS.
AHH
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

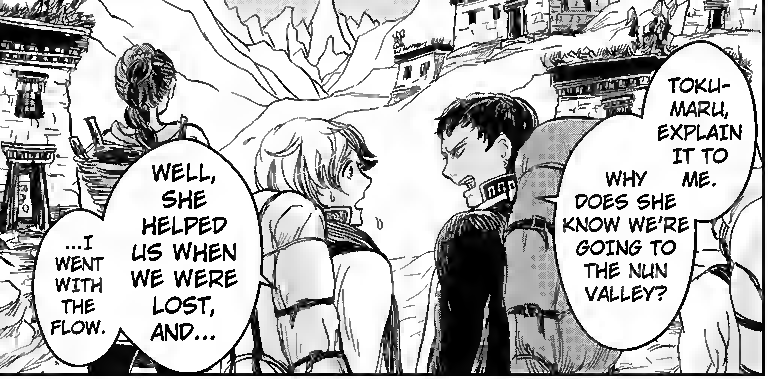
...

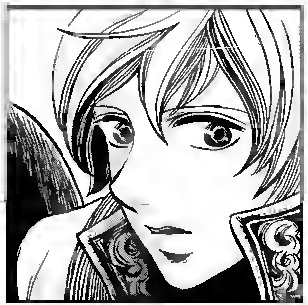
LHAMO ?!
OH WELL, HER GRANDMOTHER IS ALSO A KIND OF A WEIRDO, YOU KNOW...


ALRIGHT, THEN.
NOW, WHY DON'T YOU COME TO MY HOUSE FOR TEA?
HUH?

CHOP-CHOP!
Y-YEAH.

SO, IF SOMETHING HAPPENS, WE SHOULD BLAME THAT FAMILY.
THIS WAY. FOLLOW ME.
WELL... BUT...


TOKU-MARU, EXPLAIN IT TO ME.
WHY DOES SHE KNOW WE'RE GOING TO THE NUN VALLEY?
WELL, SHE HELPED US WHEN WE WERE LOST, AND...
...I WENT WITH THE FLOW.

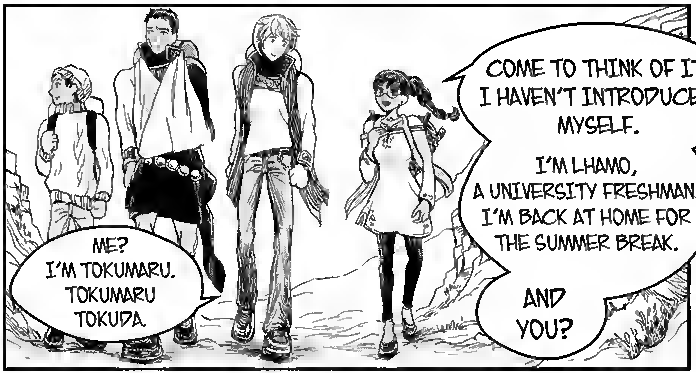


DON'T SAY ANYTHING ANYMORE.
OKAY.

WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS SHE?

SHE INVITES US TO HER HOUSE, WHILE OTHERS SEE US LIKE PESTS.

WHAT?

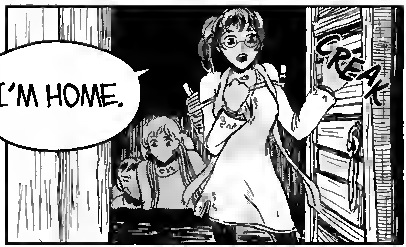

COME TO THINK OF IT, I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF.
I'M LHAMO, A UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN. I'M BACK AT HOME FOR THE SUMMER BREAK.
AND YOU?
ME? I'M TOKUMARU. TOKUMARU TOKUDA.

GLARE
YOU THINK SO?

YOU GUYS ARE A STRANGE TRIO.

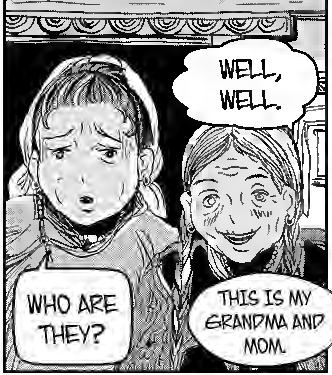
TOKU... TOKU?
TOKUMARU. AND SONAM AND NAMGYAL OVER HERE.

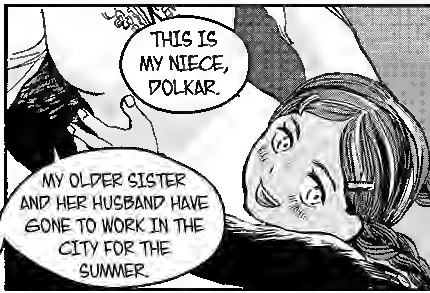
HERE WE ARE.


I'M HOME.
CREAK

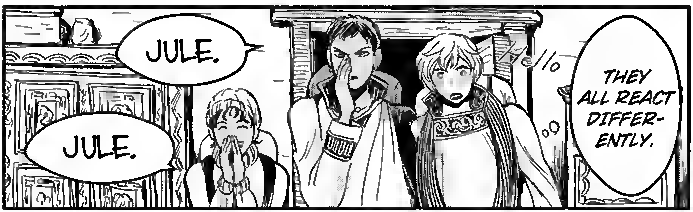
THE GROUND FLOOR IS FOR ANIMALS.

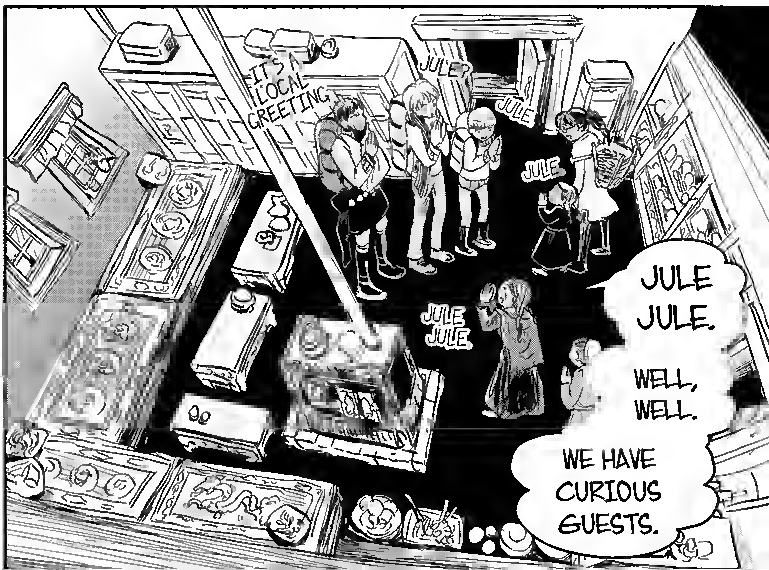
WELCOME BACK, LHAMO.
WHOA.





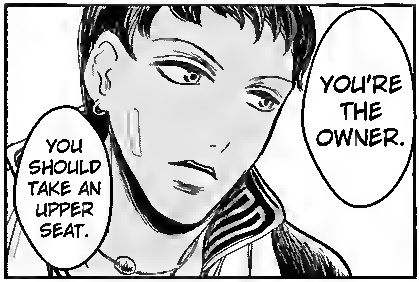
JULE: A GREETING WORD THAT CAN BE USED FOR "HELLO", "GOODBYE", AND "THANK YOU" ALSO WRITTEN AS "JULLAY"

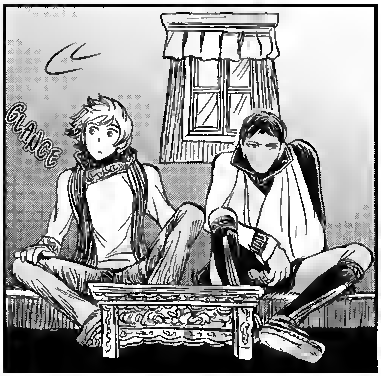




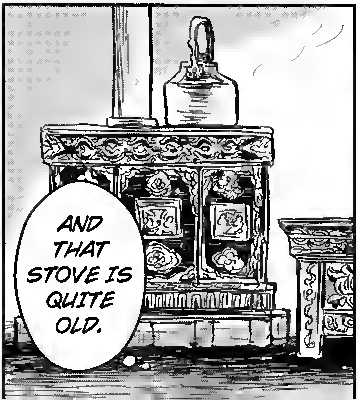
AND LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE WEARING.
SO? EVERYONE DRESSES LIKE THIS IN THE CITY.
WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU JUST BROUGHT THREE STRANGE MEN HOME.
THESE PILGRIMS WERE LOST. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
TAKE A SEAT.
LHAMO!
I DON'T LIKE THAT EXPRESSION.
NO MAN WILL WANT YOU AS A WIFE.
YOU SIT OVER HERE.
WELL, WHERE SHOULD I SIT?

THUD
HERE?
YEAH.

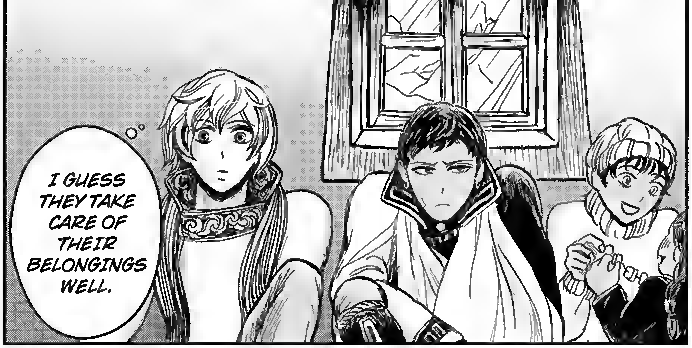

YOU'RE THE OWNER.
YOU SHOULD TAKE AN UPPER SEAT.

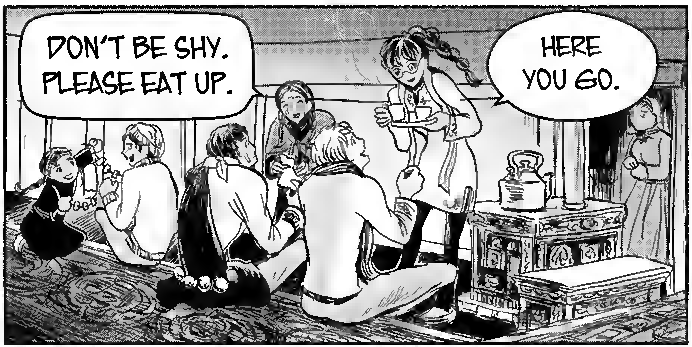

GLANCE

IRRITATED
HE'S BEING SARCASTIC.


AND THAT STOVE IS QUITE OLD.

THEIR POTS AND SPOONS ARE VERY SHINY AND NICELY ARRANGED.


I GUESS THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR BELONGINGS WELL.


DON'T BE SHY. PLEASE EAT UP.
HERE YOU GO.

I MADE YOU CHAI
THANK YOU.

I LOVE THEM.
WOULD YOU LIKE SOME DRIED APRICOTS?
WE HAVE DRIED CHEESE TOO.
I'D LOVE TO.

YEAH? THEN HAVE SOME DRIED APRICOTS.
APRICOTS? CAN YOU GET THEM AROUND HERE?

PHEW!
SWEETS TASTE SO GOOD SINCE I CAME TO WEST TIBET.

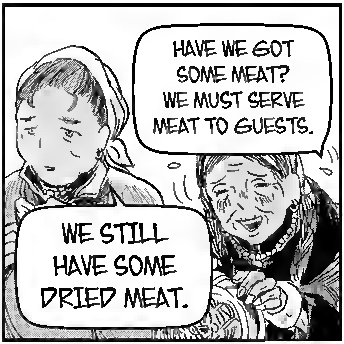
MUNCH
IN OLD DAYS, PEOPLE CRASHED THEM AND USED INSTEAD OF SUGAR.

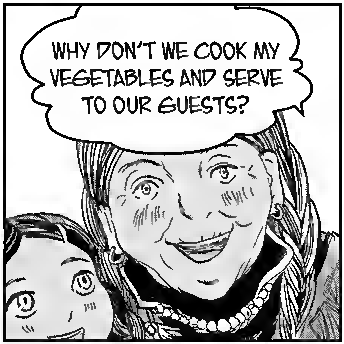
THE ALTITUDE'S RELATIVELY LOW HERE, SO WE CAN GROW THEM.
IT'S STILL 3100 METERS
IT'S REALLY CRISPY, ALMOST LIKE A ROCK.

NO.
THANKS
WE PICKED THESE APRICOTS NEARBY. AREN'T THEY TOO SWEET?
I PICKED 'EM TOO.

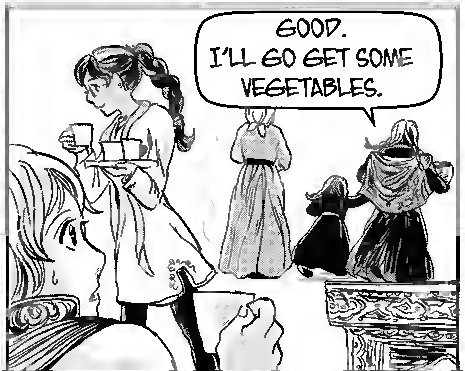
GRANDMA HAS NICE SMALL FIELDS.
?
I TOLD THEM GRANDMA'S VEGETABLES TASTE GOOD.

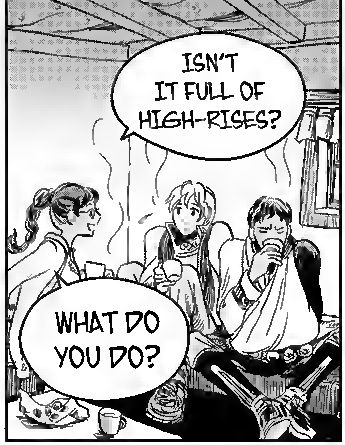
ARE THESE DRIED APRICOTS HOMEMADE?
WE ARE LARGELY SELF-SUFFICIENT WHEN IT COMES TO VEGETABLES.

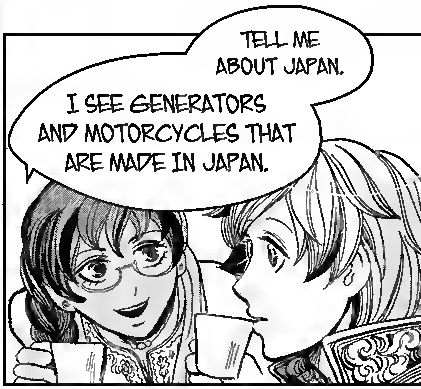

HAVE WE GOT SOME MEAT? WE MUST SERVE MEAT TO GUESTS.
WE STILL HAVE SOME DRIED MEAT.


WHY DON'T WE COOK MY VEGETABLES AND SERVE TO OUR GUESTS?

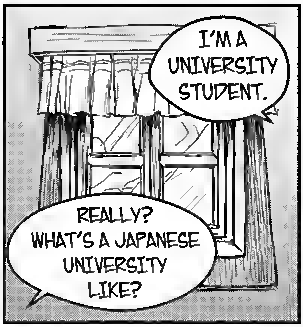
TOKUMARU-KUN.


GOOD. I'LL GO GET SOME VEGETABLES.


ISN'T IT FULL OF HIGH-RISES?
WHAT DO YOU DO?


TELL ME ABOUT JAPAN.
I SEE GENERATORS AND MOTORCYCLES THAT ARE MADE IN JAPAN.

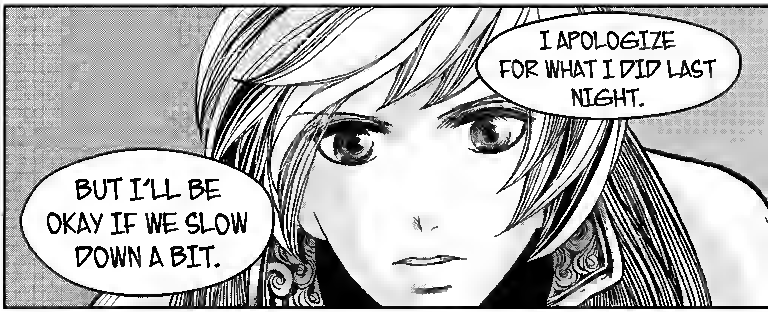
WELL... IT'S NOTHING SPECIAL.


I'M A UNIVERSITY STUDENT.
REALLY? WHAT'S A JAPANESE UNIVERSITY LIKE?

TOKU-MARU!
AH...
WHY DID YOU COME TO WEST TIBET?
WHY DO YOU WANNA GO TO THE NUN VALLEY?

HE'S RIGHT.
WE HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO.
WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE REAL MATTER NOW.
DON'T TALK ABOUT IT.
IRRI-TATED
HOW COME?
WE NEED TO DISCUSS SOMETHING IN PRIVATE.
WHAT?
LHAMO-SAN, WOULD YOU...
...EXCUSE US FOR A WHILE?
I DON'T THINK IT WOULD MATTER EITHER.
I WON'T UNDERSTAND ANY OF IT ANYWAY.
DON'T MIND ME

I THINK WE SHOULD GO BACK TO LEHLI.
WHILE YOU'RE STRONG ENOUGH TO GO BACK.


I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT I DID LAST NIGHT.
BUT I'LL BE OKAY IF WE SLOW DOWN A BIT.

REALLY?
I THINK WE SHOULD CUT DOWN OUR WALKING TIME EACH DAY.

I WALKED WITH HIM TODAY AND I THINK HE'S FINE.

I DIDN'T SAY THAT. WE'VE BEEN WALKING TOO LONG EVERY DAY.
SO, ARE YOU BLAMING ME?
TO HOW MUCH?
AN HOUR A DAY? OR TWO? IT'LL TAKE FOREVER TO GET TO THE NUN VALLEY.
SONAM.
STAND UP
HEY.
I JUST DON'T AGREE WITH YOU.
HEY.
YOU CAN'T TRAVEL ALONE EITHER.
I DON'T TRUST YOU. YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU HAD A FEVER AND PASSED OUT.
OH NO
CALM DOWN YOU TWO
MY FEVER GOES DOWN IF I GET ENOUGH REST.
HUH? DON'T BUG ME.
EXCUSE ME?

MOVE FOR-WARD, GO BACK, OR STAY? WHAT IS TOKU-MARU GOING TO DO?